

Pacheco Falls

As you approach the falls, look for a narrow trail on the left. It leads to a rocky outcrop offering the best view of the falls from above.

The falls usually flow until late spring. Watch out for poison oak near the falls.

Camping near Pacheco Falls

Camp at Wood Duck Pond, 1/4 miles up from the falls on Pacheco Falls Trail. Or, hike a few hundred yards off trail up a minor ridge south of the pond. Many good spots can be found among oaks on the flat ridge top.

Another option is Pacheco Camp, 2.1 miles from the falls. The large camp has a reliable spring, picnic tables, and a vault toilet.

Camping at Wasno Pond

Walk up the small ridge on the north side of the pond. The large grassy area by an interesting rock formation has plenty of flat ground partially shaded by blue oaks.

There is a vault toilet at the junction of Wasno and Wagon roads, 0.1 miles away.

Camping at Tule Pond

Camp at a small flat area (enough room for couple of tents) on the north side of the Grizzly Gulch Creek, just downstream from Tule Pond. This creekside meadow is covered with popcorn flowers and shooting stars early in the spring.

Water sources

- Grizzly Gulch Creek and Tule Pond
- Wasno Pond
- Wood Duck Pond
- Pacheco Creek
- Spring at Pacheco Camp

Trip highlights

- Steep climbs and descents
- Spectacular Pacheco Falls
- Panoramic views
- Optional trip extension to a remote part of Pacheco Zone.
- Some trails may be obscured by brush, tall grass, and fallen trees
- Best hiked in winter and spring

- **The Park is open 24/7 year round.**
- **Hunting Hollow entrance is not staffed, self-registration only.**
- **In summer, temperatures above 90 degrees between 11 a.m. and 7:30-8 p.m. are not unusual. Hike early in the morning and late in the evening and plan shorter trips to prevent heat exhaustion if necessary.**
- **In winter, expect cold nights - mid-30s or below.**
- **In winter and spring, many creeks may be impassable after heavy rain.**
- **There is no potable water at the Hunting Hollow trailhead.**



Pine Ridge Association

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Henry W. Coe State Park

Backpacking Trips - Hunting Hollow

Pacheco Falls



Pacheco Falls - January 18, 2016

Duration: 2-3 days

Difficulty: strenuous

Distance, elevation gain/loss:

one way to Pacheco Falls: 9.3 miles,
+2670/-2150 feet

day 2 (extended trip): 9.5 miles,
+2420/-1620 feet

day 3 (extended trip): 6.3 miles, +410/-1750 feet

Trailhead: Hunting Hollow on Gilroy Hot Springs Road

Permits/fees: Backpacking permit and parking fees required; self-register for Pacheco Zone (and Grizzly Gulch Zone)

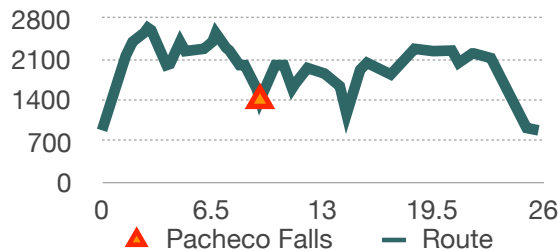
Key points - to Pacheco Falls

- 0.0 W* Start on Hunting Hollow Road, cross the creek, take Steer Ridge Trail up
- 1.4 Junction with Jim Donnelly Trail and Steer Ridge Road, turn right onto Steer Ridge Road
- 2.9 Serpentine Trail, turn left
- 3.8 W* Grizzly Gulch Road, turn left
- 4.0 W* Tule Pond Trail, turn right
- 4.6 Wasno Road, turn right
- 4.9 W* Wasno Pond, Wagon Road, turn left
- 7.3 Live Oak Spring Trail, turn right
- 8.4 Pacheco Falls Trail, turn right
- 9.0 W* **Wood Duck Pond, CAMP**
- 9.3 W* Pacheco Falls

Distance and elevation approximate.

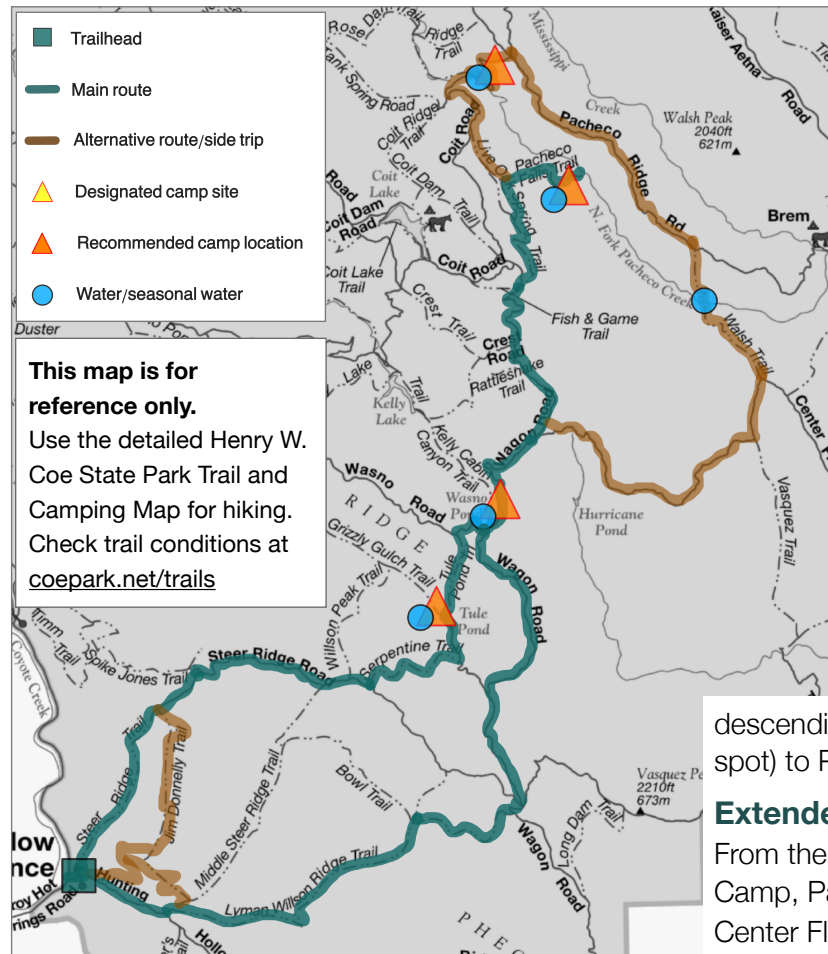
W/W* - water/seasonal water source. Check water source conditions with park staff or at coepark.net/water

Elevation - round trip (extended)



Route

From the parking lot, cross/ford the creek, and climb the very steep Steer Ridge Trail through meadows and mixed forest. For an easier albeit longer alternative, use the Jim Donnelly Trail. 1.4 miles in, take a well deserved break in



the shade of an old bay tree. Continue along Steer Ridge. A barren area east of Willson Peak offers one of the best displays of spring wildflowers. You will find poppies, bird eyed gillias, and cream cups.

Turn left onto Serpentine Trail and descend down to the creek. Follow the Grizzly Gulch Road along the creek heading downstream. Tule Pond will be on your right and Tule Pond Trail starts just past.

Cross the creek and start climbing through open oak woodlands, following the crest of a minor ridge. The grade becomes increasingly

steep as the trail enters chaparral - covered slope near its end at Wasno Road.

Turn right, and in 0.3 miles you will reach the Wagon Road, with a vault toilet at the junction. A spur road leads down to Wasno Pond.

Continue north on Wagon Road and enjoy the views of ups and downs of Center Flats Road, distant ridges to the north, and glimpses of Hurricane Pond in Canada de la Dormida.

At the signed junction, turn right onto Live Oak Spring Trail. Continue on this shaded, rarely used trail to Pacheco Falls Trail,

descending past Wood Duck Pond (camping spot) to Pacheco Creek.

Extended trip

From the falls, take a loop hike via Pacheco Camp, Pacheco Ridge Road, Walsh Trail, and Center Flats Road. Camp at Wasno or Tule Pond, and return the next day.

Pacheco Ridge offers dramatic views of the rocky summit of Walsh Peak. Steep Walsh Trail crosses the canyon of Pacheco Creek near Walsh cabin. Center Flats Road is a roller coaster with many short steep grade. It meanders over one of the truly remote parts of the park. This entire route provides very little shade.

Return route

Return via Wagon Road, Willson Camp, and Lyman Willson Ridge Trail. To avoid multiple creek crossings along Hunting Hollow Road, use the Connector and Jim Donnelly trails.